

Aruba's Ancient Structure

De Olde Molen

The architectural flavor of the Netherlands has been added, more than ever, to the Aruba landscape with the erection of an authentic Dutch mill on the flat lands slightly north of Palm Beach.

The new prominence is in fact a "lady." Now known as "De Olde Molen," she is an antique wind mill with a history that dates back to 1815. That's the year when the mill, carved and forged by hand, went into service as a water mill to help keep the water in the Reiderland near Winschoterzyl at a specified level.

Since that time she has changed in ownership and in function. She was even given the name "Lucretia Christina," the first name being that of the wife of the mill owner who acquired the mill after it was rebuilt in 1897.

Vulnerable to fire — especially those fanned by war — the ancient mill survived to take on a new role in a new dress as a unique Aruba tourist attraction. Her present owners had her shipped from her site in Winschoterzyl near Pekeldiep, the Netherlands, in a dismantled state early last year. In June, 1961, one of four surviving mill builders in Holland, J. Medendorp, came to Aruba to sort out and assemble the coded pieces of the dismantled mill. With the help of Aruba craftsmen, Mr. Medendorp had the mill assembled and erected in just six weeks' time.

In addition to erecting massive beams and piecing together wooden gears, he had to install a hand-forged iron shaft weighing 10,000 pounds in the top-most part of the structure.

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THE FLOUR-grinding mechanism was installed in the mill in 1897. The old Dutch mill, now an Aruba tourist attraction and restaurant, was built in 1815. E MECANISMO di mola harinja a worde instala den e molina na 1897. E molina Holandes bieuw, awor un atraccion pa turista, a worde traha na 1815.



A NEW foundation, its architectural lines complimentary to the old mill's lines, supports the 147-year-old structure. UN FUNDESHI nobo, su linjanan architectural complimentando e linjanan di e molina bieuw, ta wanta e estructura.



"DE OLDE Molen" restaurant has a dining room on the first floor, above, and on the second floor. Both seat fifty persons. "DE OLDE Molen" su restaurant tin un comedor ariba promer piso, ariba, y ariba segunda piso. Tur dos ta acomoda cincuenta persona.

De Olde Molen

E sabor architectural di Holanda a worde agrega, mas cu nunca antes, na e paisaje di Aruba cu ereccion di un autentico molina Holandes ariba e terreno plat poco pa nord di Palm Beach.

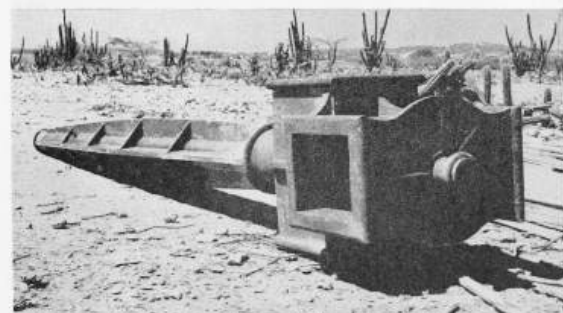
E prominencia nobo en realidad ta un "dama." Awor yama "De Olde Molen," e ta un molina bieuw di biento cu un historia cu ta bai back te 1815. Esaki ta e anja cu e molina, traha na man, a worde tuma na servicio como un molina di awa pa yuda tene e awa den Reiderland cerca di Winschoterzyl na un nivel specifico.

Desde e tempo aki el a cambia donjo y funcion. El a worde duna e number di "Lucretia Christina," e promer number siendo esun di esposa di e donjo cu a compra e molina despues cu el a worde reconstrui na 1897.

Vulnerable pa candela — especialmente esun causa door di guerra — a molina bieuw a sobrevivir pa tuma un ocupacion nobo y un bistir unico como atraccion pa turista na Aruba. Su donjonan actual a laga barkele for di su sitio na Winschoterzyl cerca di Pekeldiep, Holanda, den un forma desarma anja pasa. Na Juni 1961 un di e cuatro constructornan di molina na bida na Holanda, J. Medendorp, a bini Aruba pa sortea y arma e piezanan marca. Cu ayudo di trahadornan di Aruba, Sr. Medendorp a arma y lamta e molina den solamente seis siman di tempo.

Ademas di arma e masivo balkinan y pega hunto e aparatonan di palo, el mester a instala un shaft di hero forja cu man pisando 10,000 liber den e parti mas halto di e estructura.

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WHEN THIS 10,000-pound iron shaft was hand-forged in 1815 it represented quite a feat of technical skill using the crude tools available. TEMPO CU e shaft di hero aki di 10,000 liber a worde forja na 1815 tabata un acomplimento grandi usando e hermentnan crudo.



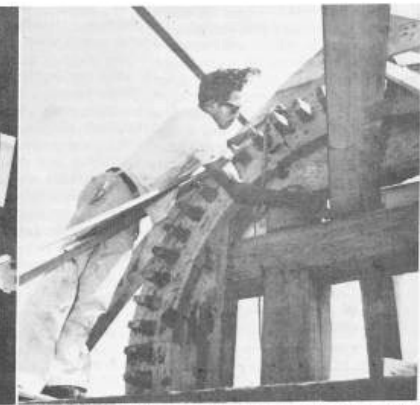
INSPECTING A grinding stone is J. Medendorp, one of four mill builders left in Holland, who came to Aruba to erect the mill. At right is a section of the wood gears which transmit power to grinding stones.



INSPECTANDO UN piedra di mola ta J. Medendorp, un di e cuatro constructornan di molina cu a resta na Holanda, kende a bini Aruba pa para e molina. Banda drechi tin un seccion di e aparatonan di palo.



STURDY WOOD gears, left, probably part of the original mechanism, are re-installed by a workman. Evidence of the hand work that went into beams and gears can be seen at right.



APARATONAN DI palo pisa, banda robes, probablemente parti di e mecanismo original, ta worde re-instala door di un trahador. Evidencia di e obra di man cu a bai den e molina por worde mira na banda drechi.

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Ta ariba e shaft forja cu man aki — un balente acomplecimiento tecnico na 1815 — cu e cuatro halanan di trenta y cinco pia largo ta asegura. Dos braza di staal, cu un total peso di mas cu 6000 liber, a reemplaza e halanan di palo cu no ta traha mas. E punto atras di e shaft forja ta worde lubrica cu manteca di porco. E shaft y halanan ta asegura den un casita cu tin un movimiento horizontal di 360 grado asina cu e halanan semper por para den biento. E casita aki ta sinta ariba bearings grandi vierkant di palo cu tambe ta lubrica cu manteca di porco.

Donjonan di restaurant tin intencion di laga halanan di e mulina draai tan pronto cu biento mas calmo permiti nan pa test completamente e mecanismo grandi.

E mulina tabata un di 400 cu ainda tin na Holanda, di cual hopi ainda ta traha bon. Maske "De Olde Molen" a sirbi como un mulina di pomp awa pa hopi anja, danjo di horcan a causa cu el a worde reemplaza pa un pomp di stiem mas eficiente. Na 1897 un trahador di mulina enama W. Kamps for di Winschoten a reconstrui e mulina pa traha como mulina di harinja. En vez di duna forza pa un pomp di awa, su halanan ta draai aparatonan di palo cu ta move dos piedra grandi di mula pisando 1000 liber cada uno. E piedranan y e mulina di harinja mes ta un atraccion grandi pa e estructura na Palm Beach.

Tabata na 1897 cu un cierto Geert Rieks Lut, mulinero, y su senjora, Lucretia Hubbeling, a cuminsa opera e mulina. E tempo aki, un inscripcion lezando "G.R.L.-L-1897" a worde poni over di porta. For di 1897 te tempo cu e mulina a worde desarma y barca pa Aruba, el a retene e number di "Lucretia Christina." E mulina cu a danja y cambia donjo un biaha mas, no a worde drecha sino te recientemente; pero hasta den e tempo cu e tabata danja e tabata worde yama afeccionadamente "Lucretia Christina."

Awor e tin un fundeshi nobo y firme den cual tin un restaurant tipico Holandes. Tin comedor ariba di dos y di tres piso, cada uno capaz di acomoda cincuenta persona. Articulanon di servicio ta Delft pintá na man cu portret di e mulina ariba.

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It is on this hand-forged shaft — quite a technical feat in 1815 — that the four thirty-five-foot-long blades are secured. Two steel arms, with a total weight of more than 6000 pounds, have replaced the no-longer servicable wooden blades. The bearing end of the forged shaft is lubricated with pork grease. The shaft and blades are secured in a housing that has a horizontal movement of 360 degrees so the blades always can be faced into the wind. This housing rests on large, square wood bearings which also are lubricated with pork grease.

The restaurant owners intend to let the mill's blades revolve as soon as calmer winds allow them to thoroughly test the ponderous mechanism.

One of 400

The mill was one of 400 still standing in Holland, many of them still operable. Although "De Olde Molen" served as a water-pumping mill for many years, storm damage caused her to be replaced by a more efficient steam pump. In 1897 a mill builder named W. Kamps from Winschoten rebuilt the mill to serve as a flour mill. Instead of powering a water pump, her blades turned wooden gears that turned two huge grinding stones weighing 1000 pounds each. These stones and the flour mill itself are a major attraction at the Palm Beach structure.

It was in 1897 that one Geert Rieks Lut, miller by trade, and his wife Lucretia Hubbeling began operating the mill. At that time, an inscription reading "G.R.L.-L. H.-1897" was placed over the door. From 1897 until the mill was dismantled and shipped to Aruba, she kept the name "Lucretia Christina." The mill, which went out of order and changed ownership once more, was not repaired again until her recent overhaul, but through the unserviceable years she still was called affectionately "Lucretia Christina" by neighborhood dwellers.

Today she has a new sturdy foundation in which is housed a restaurant featuring the decor of old Holland. There are dining rooms on the first and second floors, each capable of seating fifty patrons. Plateware is hand-painted Delft with the old mill as the subject matter.